Message Text

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SECRETUSNATO 1540

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY BROWN FROM AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: NATO, AWACS SUBJECT: NATO AEW

1. AMBASSADOR PAULS TOLD ME TODAY THAT MINISTER LEBER HAD TOLD PAULS THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING SECRETARY BROWN HAS AGREED THERE WOULD BE TWO MEETINGS ON NATO AEW. THE FIRST, A MEETING ON MARCH 25 OF DEFENSE MINISTERS, WOULD ADDRESS AEW IN GENERAL AND NOT DEAL WITH DETAILS. THE MINISTERIAL MEETING WOULD THEN BE FOLLOWED BY A FINANCIAL EXPERTS' MEETING THAT WOULD EXAMINE DETAILS.

- 2. ACCORDING TO PAULS, LEBER ALSO UNDERSTANDS FROM SECRETARY BROWN THAT THE LATTER BELIEVES A MEETING OF MINISTERS THAT DOES NOT LEAD TO DECISIONS WILL BE SUFFICIENT FOR UK MOD MULLEY. PAULS PERSONALLY BELIEVES THIS WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT, SINCE MULLEY HAS INSISTED HE NEEDS A DECISION.
- 3. PAULS ACCORDINGLY ASKED ME TO CONVEY URGENTLY
 HIS PERSONAL SUGGESTION THAT SECRETARY BROWN CONSIDER
 CALLING MULLEY TO DETERMINE IF A GENERALIZED AEW MEETING
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NOT COVERING FINANCIAL DETAILS OR RESULTING IN NO DECISIONS WOULD SATISFY HIS REQUIREMENTS AND THAT HE WOULD BE READY TO ATTEND.

4. SEPARATELY, PAULS NOTED THAT, BASED ON LUNS'
DECISION TO CANCEL FINANCIAL EXPERTS MEETING NEXT
WEEK (USNATO 1534), THE DUTCH WILL REQUEST
CLARIFICATION TODAY WHY NO FINANCIAL EXPERTS MEETING
IS TO BE SCHEDULED BEFORE THE MINISTERS MEET.

5. I THINK PAUL'S SUGGESTION MAKES SENSE. MULLEY
JUST MIGHT NOT WANT TO COME TO A MINISTERIAL MEETING
THAT MIGHT RESULT IN ISOLATING (AND PLACING THE BLAME
ON) THE UK FOR UNWILLINGNESS TO JOIN THE
US, FRG AND OTHERS IN POSTPONING ACTION.
WHILE THIS SEEMS TO RUN CONTRARY TO THE LOGIC THAT
MULLEY WANTS A MEETING TO GET HIM OFF THE HOOK ON
NIMROD, SECOND THOUGHTS ON HIS PART MAY LEAD MULLEY TO
BELIEVE THAT THE FRG WANTS TO MAKE HIM THE SCAPEGOAT.

6. IF IT WOULD HELP, I WOULD BE GLAD TO FLY TO LONDON THIS WEEKEND TO TALK TO MULLEY, AN OLD FRIEND, USING ANY GUIDANCE YOU THINK APPROPRIATE.STRAUSZ-HUPE

SECRET

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